

What's Happening at Cornell Farms

April/May, 2012



We are finally full complement at Cornell Farms for a few weeks. Rebecca and Garnet arrived home in mid-April so we've put them to use around the farm. Unfortunately, they met up with a deer in Michigan's Upper Peninsula but no one hurt and the car has been repaired.



This early spring has allowed us to get some seeding done. It's quite an operation with the large bags of seed (on the trailer).



We also did some embryo transfer this year. It takes a bit of work – synchronizing the donor and recipient cows so that they are in heat at the same time. Our friend Kim Jo Bliss helped us with some of the recipient cows. Here a few pictures from that operation – the embryos taken from the donor cow and analyzing their viability in the portable lab. They are inserted into the recipient cows in a similar fashion as artificial insemination.

We had lots of visitors as well this spring. Pat's sister Sharon and her husband Ed; the Shewfelt family (Rebecca has been working for his veterinary clinic in the summers), Rebecca's friend Kelsey and a whole busload of students from Sioux Lookout – touring the calving pen, checking out the seed drill and learning about artificial insemination and embryo transfer.



The Farm Markets are slowly starting up again – Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout and Fort Frances are on the go. Kenora will start in June and Red Lake in July. It's a tradition for Cornell Farms to bring in bulk maple syrup for opening day at Fort Frances. We just about sold the entire barrel!

Pat met up with two of her sisters – Brenda and Dianne – in Toronto for a couple of days of visiting and fun.



We're now busy getting all the cattle out onto pasture. Garnet has a summer job as an environmental student with Rainy River Resources and Rebecca is returning to southern Ontario to work. Our first barn concert is coming up June 12, 2012 – Kim Churchill. He's a young man from Australia with extraordinary guitar skills so don't miss it. On a sad note, our border collie Liz died (of old age) the day after the kids arrived home – seemed like she was waiting for them. Just one more picture – lots of eagles around cleaning up the afterbirth from calving.

